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September 28, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **SODIUM REDUCTION IN COMMUNITIES GRANT AWARD**

This is to inform you that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has received a highly competitive grant award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support sodium reduction strategies in Los Angeles County. Funded through the national "Sodium Reduction in Communities" program, this award in the anticipated total amount of \$1,090,098 will support the Los Angeles County Sodium Reduction Initiative (LACSRI) from September 30, 2010 through September 29, 2013. The grant will augment the efforts of the ARRA-funded Renew Environments for Nutrition, Exercise, and Wellness in Los Angeles County (RENEW LAC) project.

The goal of the LACSRI is to create healthier food environments to reduce sodium intake through implementation of population-based sodium reduction strategies. Reducing excess sodium consumption in the population is an important strategy to lower the rate of hypertension and the burden of cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke. Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of death for both men and women in the county, and is highly preventable.

Los Angeles County is one of only five jurisdictions nationwide that received this prestigious grant award. The other entities are: New York City, the State of Kansas, Shasta County, and New York State.

A Board letter to request approval to accept the award will be presented to your Board for consideration in early November 2010.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information.

JEF:tk

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors